

1 ABSTRACT

2 The present invention relates to an apparatus and method of perforating the cover layer or
3 soft skin of an automotive trim panel such as an instrument panel with a laser to allow light to
4 bleed through the perforations. The light source would preferably be a low heat generating or
5 "cool" type source such as an LED. The light source would be attached to a suitable substrate or
6 incorporated in to a flexible printed circuit and coupled to the vehicle electrical system. This
7 method would enable full switch integration to a trim panel and provide a seamless styling
8 opportunity regarding the electrical controls. This method would help reduce cost and weight,
9 improve quality, and promote new seamless styling theme.